

STATINTL

Comment:



Sen. Fulbright Gave Rebels Ammunition

By VIRGINIA PREWETT

Sen. William J. Fulbright's attack on President Johnson's Dominican policy came in a lull when things were definitely looking better in Santo Domingo.

The moderates in the rebel camp were about to prevail on the extremists to turn in a substantial number of arms. This would have been one more tiny step forward toward stability and a chance for free elections in the Dominican Republic.

If the extremists in the rebel camp are not fired up by the Arkansas Senator's speech, it will not be the latter's fault. Everything he said was calculated to encourage the Dominican leftist extremists.

TOO MUCH/

It seems almost as if the prospect of successful peace in the Dominican Republic was too much for the Senator to bear.

Sen. Fulbright's charges against President Johnson also came at a moment when it seems as if the U.S. may be winning ground in South Vietnam. Perhaps the Senator thinks too much success for U.S. foreign policy is bad for us.

The Senator's assault on Mr. Johnson deserves to be studied first of all for the way it was built up.

Mr. Fulbright discounted a U.S. policy that President Johnson has revived—that of valuing endangered Americans' lives enough to send military assistance to protect them—simply by pretending that President Johnson entertained no such thought when he sent the Marines into the Dominican Republic.

DEFLATION

Those Americans who have felt a little better because their President did send Marines to

rescue our stranded fellow countrymen in the Embajador Hotel may now feel deflated again — if they believe Sen. Fulbright.

Sen. Fulbright was quoted as saying that Latin Americans should make new arrangements with other countries, including the communists.

The Senator owes it to the nation to say plainly what he means by his encouragement to Latin Americans to cease cooperating with the U.S.

What Sen. Fulbright actually appears to be espousing is tolerance of the latest communist strategy for Latin America. This is the policy of the undeclared united front.

The situation that existed in Santo Domingo was a de facto united front between the communists and the leaders who said they represented constitutionalism. Sen. Fulbright must know perfectly well what he is doing when he espouses such a combination.

What Sen. Fulbright is preaching is tacit U.S. agreement to allow communism's political representatives a free hand in the New World.